

## Message Text

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51

ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3634

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T LUXEMBOURG 0775

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR LU EC

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON EC SUMMIT AND  
PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

1. IN A NOVEMBER 8 MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER GASTON THORN, WHICH MFA SECRETARY GENERAL PIERRE WURTH ALSO ATTENDED, I ASKED HOW THE TIMING FOR THE EC SUMMIT MEETING IN COPENHAGEN ON DECEMBER 14-15 RELATED, IF AT ALL, TO A POSSIBLE PRESIDENTIAL TRIP BY THE END OF THE YEAR. THORN SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY BELIEVED THAT IT WOULD BE A GOOD THING FOR THE PRESIDENT TO COME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, HE COMMENTED THAT SEVERAL OTHER EC COUNTRIES, AND ESPECIALLY THE FRENCH, WOULD PREFER TO HAVE THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP PUT OFF UNTIL EARLY NEXT YEAR. PARIS WOULD MAINTAIN THAT A PRESIDENTIAL TRIP IN DECEMBER WOULD REDUCE THE URGENCY AND IMPORTANCE OF THE EC SUMMIT MEETING AND MIGHT BE USED BY THE US TO INTERFERE IN EUROPEAN "UNITY AND IDENTITY"

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EXERCISES. FURTHERMORE, THORN OBSERVED, IT WOULD NOT LOOK GOOD FOR THE PRESIDENT TO MEET ONLY WITH THE DANISH PRIME MINISTER AND THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS AT THE SAME TIME THE EC COUNTRIES WERE THEMSELVES MEETING AT A SUMMIT

LEVEL.

2. THORN SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE US APPROACH THE BRITISH, FRENCH AND GERMANS BILATERALLY TO INQUIRE WHETHER IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR PRESIDENT NIXON TO MEET WITH THE EC CHIEFS OF GOVERNMENT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DECEMBER 14-15 SUMMIT MEETING IN COPENHAGEN. ALTHOUGH FRANCE MIGHT WELL DEMUR, THORN BELIEVED THAT SUCH AN INITIATIVE WOULD PROVE THE THE US IS ANXIOUS TO PURSUE THE DIALOGUE WITH EUROPE AND THAT US-EC RELATIONS ARE STILL CONSIDERED TO BE OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE IN WASHINGTON.

3. IF THE FRENCH WERE TO VETO A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COPENHAGEN SUMMIT, THORN ADVANCED THREE OTHER POSSIBILITIES: 1) THAT THE US OFFICIALLY ASK THE EC FOR A CONVENIENT DATE FOR THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP. THIS REQUEST WOULD OBLIGE THE EC TO CONCENTRATE NOT ONLY ON THE TIMING OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT BUT ALSO ON A FINAL EFFORT TO PRODUCE AN ACCEPTABLE US-EC DOCUMENT. 2) THAT THE PRESIDENT COME TO EUROPE THIS YEAR BUT HOLD BILATERAL MEETINGS ONLY IN THE LARGER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. 3) THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER ARRANGE TO HAVE A FORMAL MEETING WITH THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING ON DECEMBER 10.

4. I ASKED THORN WHETHER THE QUESTION OF HAVING THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS ATTEND THE EC SUMMIT HAD BEEN RESOLVED. THORN REPLIED THAT THE UK AND FRANCE HAD "AGAIN" BEEN UNITED THIS TIME IN WANTING TO EXCLUDE THE FOREIGN MINISTERS FROM THE SUMMIT MEETING. HOWEVER, THORN OBSERVED THAT JOBERT AND DOUGLAS HOME WERE NOW LESS INTRANSIGENT ON THIS QUESTION SINCE THEIR GERMAN AND BENELUX COLLEAGUES STRONGLY FAVORED FOREIGN MINISTER PARTICIPATION. JOBERT AND DOUGLAS HOME HAD BEEN TOLD BY MOST OF THEIR COLLEAGUES THAT THE SUMMIT MEETING WITHOUT FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD BE A "SIMPLE EXERCISE  
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IN RHETORIC NOT IN DECISION MAKING". ACCORDING TO THORN, JOBERT SEEMED WORRIED THAT SOME EC CHIEFS OF GOVERNMENT WOULD REFUSE TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO CONCRETE RESULTS IF THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE SUMMIT MEETING. THORN SAID THAT HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SUBSTANTIVE PORTIONS OF THE COPENHAGEN MEETING.  
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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>



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BRUSSELS  
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